



## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2020-0013]

#### Petition for Approval Extension: CSX Transportation

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of petition for an extension of approval of track inspection test program.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides the public notice that on July 27, 2021, CSX Transportation (CSX) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to extend an existing temporary suspension of some visual track inspections to allow for a continuation of a previously approved Test Program designed to test track inspection technologies (i.e., an autonomous track geometry measurement system) and new operational approaches to track inspections (i.e., combinations of autonomous inspection and traditional visual inspections).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Yu-Jiang Zhang, Staff Director, Track and Structures Division, at (202) 493-6460 or [yujiang.zhang@dot.gov](mailto:yujiang.zhang@dot.gov); or Aaron Moore, Attorney, Office of the Chief Counsel, at (202) 493-7009 or [aaron.moore@dot.gov](mailto:aaron.moore@dot.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On March 3, 2020, FRA conditionally approved the Test Program and CSX's petition under 49 CFR 211.51 to suspend 213.233(c) as applied to operations under the Test Program. A copy of the Test Program, FRA's conditional approval of the Test Program, and a previously published *Federal Register* notice explaining FRA's rationale for approving the Test Program and related suspension are available for review in the

docket.<sup>1</sup>

As approved, the Test Program included three separate phases over 18 months as outlined in Exhibit C of the Program.<sup>2</sup> CSX began the Test Program on March 16, 2020, and it is currently set to expire on September 15, 2021.

CSX is requesting to extend the Test Program until April 1, 2022. CSX states that the Test Program has taken longer than anticipated due to delays automating CSX's data analysis and reporting as well as complications from the COVID-19 pandemic. In support of its request, CSX states that it will continue to comply with all other conditions and requirements of FRA's March 3, 2020, approval letter.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, if any, are available for review online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Communications received by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]** will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable. Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2020-0013-0002> (Test Program);  
<https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2020-0013-0001> (FRA's approval decision);  
<https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2020-0013-0004> (FRA's published notice of approval).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2020-0013-0002>.

etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

**John Karl Alexy,**

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,*

*Chief Safety Officer.*

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